

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially, Applicant urges that the instant amendment is in fact enterable at this stage of the prosecution. The only amendments made to the claims were to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs. Dependent claim 14 has been incorporated into independent claim 12 with the functional language supported by the last sentence of [0008] of published U.S. 2007/0152544. Thus, it is urged that the instant amendment is properly entered at this stage of the prosecution.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 12 as amended clearly defines over the prior art.

In this regard, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the Summary of the Invention and specifically paragraphs [0006], [0007] and [0008]. These portions of the specification support the subject matter of amended independent claim 12, point out the novelty over the cited prior art references, and clearly set forth benefits obtained from the novel structure of the present invention.

Paragraph [0006] sets forth the following:

"The object is achieved by, firstly, at least some of the latches having a pin holder which only partially surrounds the pin in an arcuately curved manner."

Thus, the latches have a pin holder which only partially surrounds the pin in an arcuately curved manner. Paragraph [0007] sets forth the following:

"It is therefore now possible to first of all secure the pin between the two side walls and only then to place the latch onto the pin from the side. It is no longer

necessary to laboriously search with the pin both for the axial bore in the latch and the bearing bore in the opposite side wall. This substantially simplifies the assembly."

This portion of the specification sets forth the advantages of the structure of the present invention wherein the pin holder only partially surrounds the pin. Paragraph [0008] sets forth the following:

"According to the novel invention, the pin also serves to secure adjacent latches. For this purpose, two adjacent pins maintain a distance from each other which is slightly greater than a material thickness of the latch in the region of the pin holder. By this means, it is not possible for the pin to slip out of the pin holder, but nevertheless the pivotability of the latch about the pin is ensured."

This paragraph sets forth the novel structure which allows for the advantages set forth in paragraph [0007] above. This subject matter which was claimed in previously submitted dependent claim 14 has now been inserted into independent claim 12. Dependent claim 14, now canceled, depended directly from independent claim 12 and therefore this amendment is allowable even though it is made after final. The novel structure of the present invention as set forth in amended independent claim 12 and supported by the second sentence of paragraph [0008] allows for the pin holder to be held in place on the pin after the latches are placed onto the pins from the side (see paragraph [0007]). The prior art fails to teach, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the subject matter of independent claim 12 as currently amended.

All three documents (Weidner, Schöller and Strobel) teach essentially the same principle of mounting a latch onto a pivot

pin by accommodating the pivot pin in a bore hole which completely surrounds the pivot pin. In contradiction to that, the invention uses a completely different principle wherein an arcuate inner surface only partially surrounds the pin. This has the advantage that the latch can be mounted onto the pin without having to disassemble any side walls.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 12 and the claims which depend therefrom patentably define over the art of record and the early issuance of a formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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